

## NSW Police Strip Searches

### July 2021-June 22 to July 2022-June 2023

#### Key findings

- Between July 2021 and June 2023, NSW Police conducted a total of 4,591 strip searches in public.
- There was a 17% increase in the total number of strip searches for the two-year period.
- Over 40 per cent of strip searches were conducted on young people, aged 18 to 29 years old.
- Nothing illegal was found in 58 per cent of strip searches.
- Where an object was found, illegal drugs made up 75.5% of the object found.
- NSW Police denied RLC's request to access statistics about the type of drug and quantity found, and the charges laid.
- There was a 30% increase in the number of girls aged 10-17 strip searched from 2021-22 to 2022-23.
- A disproportionate number of strip searches were conducted on First Nations children.
- In 2021–22, 16.00% (8 of 50 children between the ages of 10–17 years old) identified as First Nations children.
- In 2022–23, 19.29% (11 of 57 children between the ages of 10–17 years old) identified as First Nations children.
- In 2021–22, 9 in 10 children who were strip searched were male, and 1 in 10 were female.
- In 2022–23, 6 in 10 children who were strip searched were male, and 4 in 10 were female.

#### Children

- There were 107 children strip searched (aged 10-17 years).
- Children represented 4% of all strip searches.
- The youngest children strip searched were three 12-year-old girls.
- The youngest boys strip searched were aged 14.
- There was a 30% increase in strip searches of female children between 2021–22 and 2022–23.

#### First Nations

- The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being strip searched has increased from 12% (253) to 14% (340). First Nations people make up 3.4 percent of the total New South Wales population.
- There has been a decrease in illegal drugs found during strip searches of First Nations People.
- There was an increase in First Nations children strip searched over the two-year period.
- The youngest First Nations child strip searched was a 12-year-old girl.
- In total First Nations children made up 16% of children strip searched in 2021-22. This figure rose to 19% in 2022-23.

## Age

- Over 40 per cent of strip searches were conducted on those aged 18-29 years old.
- There was a 5% increase in strip searches of 18–29-year-olds between 2021–22 and 2022–23.
- In 2021–22
  - 41% of strip searches were of 18–29-year-olds.
  - 31% of strip searches were of 30–39-year-olds
  - 20% of strip searches were of 40–49-year-olds
  - 5% of strip searches were of 50–59-year-olds
  - 1% of strip searches were of 60–69-year-olds
  - 0.10% of strip searches were of 70–79-year-olds
- In 2022-2023
  - 46% of strip searches were of 18–29-year-olds
  - 27% of strip searches were of 30–39-year-olds
  - 18% of strip searches were of 40–49-year-olds
  - 6% of strip searches were of 50–59-year-olds
  - 1% of strip searches were of 60–69-year-olds
  - 0% of strip searches were of 70–79-year-olds

## Location

- In 2022–23, the top 10 suburbs where strip searches were conducted were Sydney Olympic Park (263), Sydney (142), Surry Hills (137), Bondi Beach (61), Merrylands (35), Liverpool (34), Haymarket (34), Marrickville (34), Parramatta (30), and Waterloo (30).

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- In 2021–22, the top 10 suburbs where strip searches were conducted was Sydney Olympic Park (125), Surry Hills (94), Sydney (75), Liverpool (41), Parramatta (40), Dubbo (35), Cabramatta (34), Haymarket (32), Bondi Beach (30), and Newtown (28).

## Object found

- From 2021–23, 54.21% (2,489 of 4,591 total strip searches) resulted in no item/object being found.
- From 2021–23, 45.34% (2,082 of 4,591 total strip searches) resulted in an item/object being found.